International Journal of Maxillofacial Prosthetics (iJMP)

EDITORIAL

Better Together – Learning from our Peers

Dr. Jose M Rodriguez
Consultant in Restorative Dentistry
Guy's and St Thomas NHS Trust,
London, UK

Delivering prosthetic care for patients with maxillofacial defects requires a great deal of innovation and creativity and it is truly remarkable how my colleagues' approach difficult clinical cases with such varied perspectives. The diversity of thought that exists within our profession is a tremendous asset, and it is crucial that we foster an environment that encourages collaboration and the exchange of ideas. We must listen to each other, our trainees, our patients, our clinical support staff, and our administrative staff. By doing so, we can develop rich, varied, and balanced viewpoints that will help us tackle complex cases and improve patient outcomes. It is through collaboration that we can truly excel and push the boundaries of what is possible. Research can benefit greatly from collaboration and diversity of thought, as it allows for the development of more innovative and effective treatments. By bringing together researchers with different areas of expertise, we can develop more comprehensive research studies that take into account a variety of perspectives. From the development of new prosthetic materials to advancements in digital technology for treatment planning, research has played a critical role in advancing the field and demonstrates the strength and power of collaborative research across multiple time zones.

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending The 2nd International Workshop for Young Maxillofacial Prosthetic Educators (yMPE) in Tokyo, Japan. Supported by the International College of Prosthodontists and the International Journal of Maxillofacial Prosthetics, this workshop brought together nine colleagues from all over the world to share ideas on education, clinical practice, research, and innovation. The highlight of the workshop was the clinical case presentations, some of which will be published in this journal. It was truly inspiring to see the diversity of thought, ingenuity, and resourcefulness that our colleagues from around the world brought to the table. From full digital planning of free fibula flap reconstructions with primary dental implant placement to painstaking hand-painting of orbital prostheses, the level of expertise and dedication on display was truly remarkable (Fig 1).

As we emerge from the pandemic and return to a sense of normalcy, it is more important than ever to continue collaborating and learning from each other. The cross-pollination of ideas and experiences from colleagues from all over the world will help us tackle the most challenging cases and ultimately provide better care for our patients. It is not uncommon for patients to require treatment from multiple healthcare providers, and collaboration can help to ensure that these providers are working together effectively to provide the best possible care. Collaboration can also help to bridge gaps in knowledge and expertise, leading to more comprehensive and effective treatment plans. Collaboration is key for success in clinical practice, and as maxillofacial prosthodontists we are keenly aware of the importance of collaborative work with other healthcare professionals.

Fig 1. The 2nd International Workshop for Young Maxillofacial Prosthetic Educators (yMPE) in Tokyo, Japan.

By fostering an environment of collaboration, embracing diversity of thought, and continuing to push the boundaries of research, we can improve patient outcomes and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Let us continue to learn from each other, support each other, and strive for excellence in all that we do – together.

Articles published in Int J Maxillofac Prosthetics are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.